

Darryl Fears, Staff Writer Washington Post

1. Follow-ups with reporter
2. Desk Statement and Update provided to reporter

1. Follow-ups with reporter:

- Most importantly, the available scientific data indicates that people living near the Site are not currently exposed to contaminants released from the Site that are above levels of concern. EPA continues to work with the state of Missouri on monitoring and sampling efforts and there have been several in recent years.
- Regarding the subsurface smoldering event in the Bridgeton landfill, EPA believes that should the SSE come into contact with the RIM, the RIM would *not* become reactive or explosive. An SSE would be expected to change the conditions within the landfill, and likely increase the rate at which landfill gases are released, to include radon. Given what we do know about the potential impacts, EPA has decided to require the PRPs to build an isolation barrier to preclude the possibility of it reaching the radiologically impacted material contained at the adjacent West Lake Landfill.
- While conditions at the site have not changed, in the event of a surface fire in areas with radiologically impacted material at or near the surface, it is possible that contamination could migrate offsite by wind-blown smoke or fire suppression fluids. Any resulting exposures could present a risk to receptors. As a result, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) on December 9, 2015, for a time-critical removal action to mitigate surface fire risks.

2. 02-09-2016 Desk Statement & Update on West Lake Landfill Superfund Site Actions

EPA is committed to working with the State of Missouri, as well as our federal partners with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Geological Survey to implement a final remedy and other actions to protect public health at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo.

Staff from EPA headquarters and Region 7 have met with the Just Moms STL members in person and by phone, most recently this past Friday. We are in frequent contact to both listen to concerns and share updates on progress at the site. We remain focused on numerous immediate and long-term actions required to protect the community from the radioactive wastes contained at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, MO.

Our current priorities include:

Final Proposed Remedy

- EPA negotiated and finalized a modified Administrative Order on Consent Scope of Work modification with the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) in December 2015.
- PRPs will deliver a Remedial Investigation Addendum and subsequent Final Feasibility Study for EPA's review and approval this fall.
- Once the FFS is approved, EPA will finalize our evaluation of the 2008 remedy decision and

issue a draft final remedy for public review and comment.

Isolation Barrier Determination

- At the end of 2015, EPA announced its decision to require the installation of an isolation barrier, along with other engineering measures, to ensure radiologically impacted material remains separated from the subsurface smoldering event currently occurring in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.
- EPA Region 7 made this decision with technical support from our Office of Research and Development, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and in consultation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services throughout the fall and winter of 2015.
- Next Actions: EPA is negotiating the technical and legal details with the PRPs to perform this work pursuant to an enforceable schedule. The state of Missouri continues its actions with the owner of the Bridgeton Landfill to control the subsurface smoldering event and emissions.

Groundwater Investigations (new Operable Unit)

- EPA intends to investigate and address groundwater under a new Operable Unit (OU3). In late 2015 and January 2016, EPA had multiple discussions with the State of Missouri about future groundwater work. Next Actions: EPA, with technical support from the U.S. Geological Survey, is developing the scope of additional groundwater investigations to fully characterize the nature and extent of contamination related to the site.

Surface Fire Unilateral Administrative Order for Removal Action

- EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) on December 9, 2015, for a time-critical removal action to mitigate surface fire risks.
- The UAO requires the PRPs to:
 - implement engineering measures to mitigate the risk of a surface fire within the boundary of the West Lake Landfill site coming in contact with radiologically impacted material (RIM) at or near the surface, and
 - develop an incident management plan that will be used to coordinate with local emergency responders.
- Next Actions: Work at the site begins the week of Feb. 8-12 and is expected to be completed later in the spring of 2016. The PRPs provided EPA with a draft work plan and supporting documents for construction of a non-combustible cover and an incident management plan. EPA is currently reviewing these documents. A final report will be made available to the public.

Dialogue Framework

- EPA desires a more inclusive, transparent and fact-based dialogue with the community so we have contracted with neutral facilitators Cindy Cook and Dain Maddox of Adamant Accord. They have spoken with community members during this past week and continue to meet with them in-person in St. Louis this week. These facilitators have substantial experience in facilitating respectful and substantive dialogue regarding complex environmental issues. After meeting with community members, they will report their findings at a meeting in St. Louis at the end of February and then develop a framework for continued dialogue with this diverse group of community members and leaders and EPA Region 7 staff.

